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EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: ADAPTATION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE UNITED NATIONS MACHINERY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Written statement* submitted by North-South XXI, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[20 December 1999]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, as received from the submitting non-governmental organization.

INTERNATIONAL COURT TO MONITOR ELECTIONS

1. Almost every State today claims to be democratic. The new form of legitimacy is apparently the "rule of law" following multi-party elections. In reality, this electoral "recycling" is nothing but a cover-up for the preservation of privileged oligarchies and traditional authoritarianism, notwithstanding articles 21, 22 and 25 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

2. Despite the many irregularities and the cheating that distort elections, bogus "international observers" (often delegations of western celebrities acting in fact as mercenaries) play the role of sureties when the winners are favourably disposed towards the established international order. This type of behaviour is common in Africa.

3. In the face of these abuses of the right to vote, there is no legal, peaceful remedy available to the people. Their only choice is between rebellion and submission. "Humanitarian intervention" is unlawful, discriminatory and counter-productive.

4. One of the judicial remedies could be the establishment of an international court, along the lines of the International Court of Justice or the International Criminal Court, which would be competent to judge the legality of elections in each country at the request of nationals of the country or after itself initiating proceedings.

5. A working group should be set up to prepare a proposal for a "world democracy court", to use Professor Moncef Merzouki's term, which would have the task of demystifying elective pseudo-democracies for an international audience, thereby curtailing their existence.